

Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

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1/20/81

BUENOS 00407 2016222

INFO OCT-D1 ADS-BB NA-B6 /D23 W

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P 201546Z JAN 81
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8169

BUENOS AIRES 0407

EO 12865: GDS 1/19/87 (RUSER, CLAUS V.) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE CONCERN OVER US HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: RUSER/WHITMAN TELCON 1/15/81

1. - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY OFFICERS FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE REGISTERED SENSITIVITY AND CONCERN OVER FORTHCOMING US HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT. THEY ARGUE THAT A REPORT SIMILAR IN TONE AND STRUCTURE TO LAST YEAR'S WOULD NOT BE FAIR, IN VIEW OF A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN ARGENTINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION OVER THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS, AND HAVE STATED THAT SUCH A REPORT WOULD NOT BE "SATISFACTORY" TO THE GOA. AS LAST YEAR, EMBASSY REQUESTS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ADVANCE OF ITS PUBLICATION BY THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

3. ON JANUARY 6, WHILE DISCUSSING FORTHCOMING ZABLOCKI VISIT, CONDORE BLOOMER REEVE, FOREIGN MINISTER'S CHIEF OF CABINET, RAISED ISSUE WITH DCM. BLOOMER REEVE SAID CONTENT OF THIS YEAR'S REPORT WAS OF CONCERN. THE GOA HAD NOT BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC OVER LAST YEAR'S REPORT BUT AGREED THE REPORT HAD BEEN OBJECTIVE UNDER THEN PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES. A REPORT THIS YEAR SIMILAR IN TONE AND STRUCTURE WOULD NOT BE FAIR AND WOULD NOT BE SATISFACTORY TO THE GOA.

4. BLOOMER REEVE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN ARGENTINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION OVER THE PAST YEAR, FOR WHICH THE GOA HAD BEEN GIVEN LITTLE CREDIT. HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN ARGENTINA TODAY WERE FAR BETTER THAN IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES. FEW INDIVIDUALS WERE BEING DETAINED THESE DAYS. THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION FURTHER ALTHOUGH, HE ADDED, IT REMAINED CONCERNED OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW ATTEMPTS BY TERRORISTS ORGANIZING ABROAD TO INFILTRATE THE COUNTRY.

5. THE PROOF OF WHAT HE SAID, BLOOMER REEVE CONTINUED, WAS EASY TO SEE. NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICIANS WERE FREELY EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS. POLITICAL ACTIVITY REMAINED FORMALLY IN SUSPENSE, HE CONCEDED, BUT A GREAT MANY MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES WHICH WERE OF A POLITICAL CHARACTER WERE TAKING PLACE WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE AUTHORITIES. THIS PUBLIC DIALOGUE WOULD BE DEEPENED UNDER THE VIOLA ADMINISTRATION AS THE AUTHORITIES CAME TO GRIPS WITH THE QUESTION OF THE NEW PARTY LAW LATER THIS YEAR.

6. DCM SAID HE WOULD PASS BLOOMER REEVE'S OBSERVATIONS ALONG. THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS WERE AN HONEST EFFORT BY THE DEPARTMENT, MANDATED BY THE CONGRESS EACH YEAR, TO MAKE AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION. THE REPORTS WERE INTENDED TO BE SELF-CONTAINED; THUS, IN ADDITION TO REVIEWING LAST YEAR'S DEVELOPMENTS, THE REPORT WOULD ALSO COVER RECENT ARGENTINE HISTORY.

7. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS YEAR'S REPORT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS ON AN EMBARGOED BASIS. AS LAST YEAR, WE REQUEST THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EMBASSY TO PRESENT A COPY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ADVANCE OF ITS PUBLICATION BY THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE, (AS WE UNDERSTAND IS THE DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION). DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO FURNISH A COPY TO AMBAS-

SADOR AJA ESPIL AT THE SAME TIME, BUT NOT BEFORE THE EMBASSY HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SUBMISSION.
SHLAUDMAN

AQ013

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

Lot 82D275
Box 3541
(2/17)

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